

REMARKS

I. Supplemental Oath/Declaration

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.175(b)(1), a Supplemental Reissue Application Declaration is submitted herewith.

II. Original Patent

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.178(a), the original patent certificate for U.S. Patent No. 5,842,807 is surrendered to the Patent and Trademark Office and is enclosed herewith.

III. Comments on Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

Regarding the examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, it should be noted that the examiner's statement bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office action contains features recited in claims 19-27 only.

It is submitted that a reason for the allowance of claims 1-17 is that the cited prior art neither teaches nor fairly suggests a ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising a substantially rigid integral upper structure. The ring binder has a pivotable lower structure supported by the upper structure, a plurality of ring members mounted to the lower structure, and at least one integral securing means for securing the ring binder to the base member. The at least one securing means includes an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching the securing means to the upper structure and a plurality of securing elements for securing the ring binder to the base member. At least 75% of the elements extend away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

It is submitted that a reason for the allowance of claim 18 is that the cited prior art neither teaches nor fairly suggests a ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring

binder comprising a substantially rigid integral upper structure. The ring binder has a pivotable lower structure supported by the upper structure, a plurality of ring members mounted to the lower structure, and at least one securing fastener for securing the ring binder to the base member. The at least one securing fastener is integral for enhanced strength and includes an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching the securing fastener to the upper structure and a plurality of securing elements for securing the ring binder to the base member. At least 75% of the elements extend away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

It is submitted that a reason for the allowance of claim 28 is that the cited prior art neither teaches nor fairly suggest a ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising a substantially rigid integral upper structure. The ring binder has a pivotable lower structure supported by the upper structure, a plurality of ring members mounted to the lower structure, and at least one securing fastener for securing the ring binder to the base member. The at least one securing fastener is integral for enhanced strength and includes an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching the securing fastener to the upper structure and securing elements for securing the ring binder to the base member. The securing elements each have substantially equal length. At least 75% of the elements extend away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

It is submitted that a reason for the allowance of claim 29 is that the cited prior art neither teaches nor fairly suggest a ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising a substantially rigid integral upper structure. The ring binder has a pivotable lower structure supported by the upper structure, a plurality of ring members mounted to the lower structure, and at least one securing fastener for securing the ring binder to the base member. The at least one securing fastener is integral for enhanced strength and includes an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure

for attaching the securing fastener to the upper structure and securing elements for securing the ring binder to the base member. The securing elements each have a free end located at an end of the securing fastener. The free ends of the securing elements are substantially coplanar. At least 75% of the elements extend away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

It is submitted that a reason for the allowance of claim 30 is that the cited prior art neither teaches nor fairly suggest a ring binder adapted to be secured to a base member, the ring binder comprising a substantially rigid integral upper structure. The ring binder has a pivotable lower structure supported by the upper structure, a plurality of ring members mounted to the lower structure, and at least one integral securing fastener for securing the ring binder to the base member. The at least one securing fastener includes an engagement portion in direct engagement with the upper structure for attaching the securing fastener to the upper structure and a plurality of securing elements for securing the ring binder to the base member. At least 75% of the elements extend away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion. The securing fastener is free from any intervening sleeve member between the fastener and the upper structure.

IV. Conclusion

As it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, allowance of claims 1-30 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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